



**Title of Project: EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM IN NIGERIA
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT APS-FFP-15-00048**

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**Annex A: Annual Results Report
March, 2015 – December 20, 2015**

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i. Project Activities and Results

a. Pre Intervention Assessment and Methodology

The IRC conducted a Food Security Assessment to ascertain the specific factors that create food vulnerability within the IDP population. The IRC considered the range of factors that place people in danger of food insecurity; the degree of vulnerability in individuals, households and groups of people; their exposure to various risk factors; and their capacity to confront crisis situations and to survive them. A sample of 235 households were randomly selected in the IDP host communities of the 4 LGAs in Yola: Yola North, Yola South, Girei and Fufore. From May 18th to 23rd, the assessment team, comprised of three IRC staff and four partner staff, two from each, Goggoji Zumunchi Development Initiative (GZDI) and Center for Caring Empowerment and Peace Initiatives (CCEPI).

The outcome of the assessment indicated that there was a one-meal gap in in the number of meals eaten by children between the ages of 5-18, and in the number of meals eaten by adults between the ages of 19-60 per household. This finding indicated a drop in food consumption for most households since the start of the conflict. The assessment found that only 9% of households reported consuming poultry, meat and offal during the conflict,

compared to the 83% that consumed poultry, meat and offal before the conflict. There were similar results for the consumption of oil and fat, where 41% of households surveyed reported they consume oil and fat in times of conflict, and 83% reported consuming oil and fat before the conflict. The most highly consumed staple food – maize cereal – dropped in consumption by 3% during this conflict, while roots and tubers dropped by 19%. Consumption of the following food types had also dropped according to the assessment: cereals, roots and tubers, pulses and legumes, vegetables, fruits, meat, milk products, oil/fat and sugar. The assessment also found that 43% of IDPs are not meeting the minimum food diversity requirement.

Overall, this assessment provided insight into the most consumed food among the IDPs in host communities and among returnees to understand their food needs. The assessment indicated gaps in the household food needs as well as the income of IDPs. The greatest source of income is casual labor, though this was also the case prior to the conflict. The sale of livestock had the greatest drop as a source of income, indicating that IDPs have suffered huge losses in their livelihoods.

The Food Security & Livelihoods team participated in the IRC multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment conducted in the conflict-affected areas of Mubi North, Mubi South, Hong and Maiha, from June 3rd to 6th. The findings indicated that immediate support of agricultural inputs was necessary in order to encourage greater self-reliance within the communities for the foreseeable future. At the same time, emergency food assistance would enable targeted communities to gain access to food for the gap period, as well as act as a strategy to curb the looming food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. Skills and livelihoods support for targeted groups, including women and girls, can help to provide them with independence, a source of income, and an opportunity to better provide for themselves and their families.

Finally, the IRC, in partnership with CCEPI and GZDI, conducted a Market Assessment from May 25th to June 6th in markets located in the following Local Government Areas of Adamawa state: Demsa, Fufore, Girei, Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North and Mubi South. The objective of the assessment was to explore the availability, accessibility of food commodities while also capturing market prices in different locations in Yola and Mubi. The assessment showed that vendors are able to operate freely in Yola and Mubi markets. The capacity of vendors to meet market demand in Mubi was low, most likely due to the lack of financial institutions operating in the town, which also reflects the low financial transaction (cash handling) by vendors. Meanwhile, the return of IDPs to Mubi and other northern locations have catalyzed market activity in Mubi's main market. Compared to Yola, where prices for food commodities are slightly lower than Mubi, banks have yet to reconstruct and reopen their branches. The teams located vendors that demonstrated the capacity and expressed a willingness to meet demands of the food voucher program.

b. Beneficiaries Identification and Selection

The IRC used an exhaustive selection criteria to target only the most vulnerable households. Though this project set out to reach 2,200 households with food assistance on a monthly basis, this target is minimal compared to the actual needs on the ground, making

it challenging to identify beneficiaries through community leader engagement alone. Therefore, another participatory mechanism was used through which the IRC and partner staff held focus group discussions with clustered households. Through these discussions, the groups provided names of people that they thought fit the vulnerability criteria that the enumerators outlined. The IRC partners, GDZI and CCEPI, visited each community and met with community leaders, and spread awareness on the process of beneficiary identification. During the community visits, IRC conducted focus group discussions with IDP leaders, women leaders and youths of the community to create awareness of the food voucher program.

The IRC targeted and selected highly vulnerable groups, such as households headed by women, elderly, child and chronically-ill, as well as households with malnourished children, and pregnant and lactating women. The selection process was overseen by the IRC's protection team, and involved partners and community committees to ensure transparency. In August, the IRC carried out verification of the beneficiaries selected in July to ensure availability before the August distribution, and to confirm the families who benefit in August still meet the vulnerability criteria. This process will be carried out before each distribution, as it was also conducted before the September distributions.

c. Food Voucher design, printing and handling

The initial stage of the food assistance strategy was to provide food vouchers for the first round of distributions, which started during the first week of July, targeting 2,200 households. The rationale behind utilizing paper vouchers addressed concerns about supply and security challenges experienced in the various target locations. The IRC team designed a voucher sample that includes security features to avoid any duplication or reprinting. To further secure the vouchers, the IRC staff printed the vouchers in Abuja and ensured transparent and secure voucher handling in their delivery to Yola.

The IRC FSL team replaced the commodity vouchers with a value-based voucher for the September distributions. Each voucher has a total value of 10,000 Naira, distributed through 3 coupons at varying values (5,000 Naira, 3,000 Naira and 2,000 Naira). The number of coupons will be increased if necessary based on the experience from the first two months of the value based voucher. The IRC also revised the Standard Operating Procedures to reflect this change.

As previously stated, these vouchers were printed in Abuja. However, for future distributions, the IRC has been looking into printing vouchers outside of Nigeria. Security features, such as unique hologram, could ensure that IRC is able to avoid forgery and any voucher fraud activity. Due to the high visibility of the FFP voucher program, the IRC believes these precautions are necessary to prevent voucher mishandling. The IRC is coordinating with the IRC's Global Supply Chain Department to identify potential suppliers outside of the country to produce vouchers for the longer term.

d. Food Basket

The security challenges that the team faces has made it difficult to distribute some perishable goods to distribution sites that are farther apart, as they could not be guaranteed to be provided in a timely enough manner. From a product quality perspective,

transportation of these perishables was not feasible, and for northern areas, timely delivery would be hampered by the delays on the road resulting from destruction of the bridges between Yola and Mubi during the advance of the insurgents at the end of 2014. In addition, security concerns on the heels of the suicide bombings in markets and crowded areas, led IRC to avoid crowding at voucher distribution sites. The vouchers are designed in such a way to allow beneficiaries to redeem them at vendors' shops at a maximum of three visits to the market, thus avoiding unnecessary overcrowding.

e. Vendor Selection.

At the start of the project, the IRC sought approval for a waiver to fast track vendor selection from a pool of vendors that IRC has worked with previously and who are established in the local markets where beneficiaries normally shop. The tender process generally takes time, and those with waivers allowed the IRC to surpass this timely process and initiate distributions sooner. The first two rounds of distributions (June and July) enabled targeted households to gain access to immediate lifesaving food assistance. The vendors selected through the waiver process have been contracted by the IRC before on a similar project funded by a different donor, therefore they have been properly vetted and they are familiar with the systems, voucher redemption process and payment claims procedures from the IRC.

The IRC conducted sensitizations for the vendors on June 11th, 2015, with three vendors (two females and one male). In these sensitizations, the IRC covered protection and gender based violence issues, as well as safety and security on sites that support beneficiaries. This included the possible risks of abuse and exploitation during and after distribution exercises. Vendors were encouraged to operate during favorable hours for the beneficiaries to mitigate any risk of physical or sexual abuse. The IRC will continue to update the vendors of any safety planning, especially for the women, throughout the project.

Formal agreements between the IRC and the three identified vendors were signed on June 30th, 2015 after their quotations were assessed by the IRC Supply Chain. The agreement clearly stated that, only the allowable food items will be supplied to the beneficiaries, and outlined the modalities of accepting and redeeming vouchers, the duration of the partnership, the payment system and the price and quality of food items. Market dynamics in terms of availability of food items, commodity prices, seasonal food items and demand for the most consumed food items were also discussed. The IRC's Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) team has worked out control measures to ascertain agreement breaches.

When switching to the value-based voucher program, the IRC followed a full procurement process to identify new vendors, the old vendors also participated in the procurement process. In line with the recommended IRC and donor procurement procedures, and given the amount of money involved in a single round of distributions, the IRC issued a call for tender in June, inviting bidders to express their interest. The vetting will be done in the first month of the second quarter of the project.

The IRC FSL team conducted a meeting with vendor associations and suppliers in Mubi to explain the FFP project and to distribute tender notices to them. Following this, the IRC received 21 bids for the food voucher project and then conducted an assessment of the

vendors that considered their capacity, availability, willingness, and access to beneficiaries. After the assessment, 11 vendors were short listed and invited to present their proposed participation in the project. Only seven vendors (two previous vendors and five new ones) participated and confirmed their willingness for the project at the meeting.

These vendors and their shop assistants attended a training organized by IRC in September. The training covered topics such as; introduction of the IRC, FFP project (donor, objective, target areas, beneficiary selection process, time frame), voucher movement cycle, conditions for participation, food voucher (sample, specifications, security features, content), how to accept and redeem vouchers, preparing vendor payment package, beneficiary rights, IRC visibility and do's and don'ts. At the end of the training, the vendors signed the IRC's contract, developed according to the SOPs, and received receipt booklets and sign boards for visibility at their shops/outlet.

f. Beneficiary Briefing and Voucher Distribution

Each month, the IRC convened consultative meetings with the community structures made up of the community leader, women and youth leaders to strengthen community involvement, including, women's groups, youth, religious leaders and the community leaders before the food voucher distribution, so as to reduce tension from non-beneficiaries. The IRC distributed: 2,200 vouchers in July, 3,649 in August, and 3,300 in September. Voucher distributions increased by 1,450 vouchers during the months of August and September, because these vouchers were not distributed as planned during the months of April, March and June.

The IRC and partners notified the community and subsequently the beneficiaries of the time and location of the planned distribution. And, during the distributions, the FSL staff conducted sensitizations on the redemption process as well as on nutrition.

Based on analysis of the security situation following the bomb blast in Malkohi IDP Camp, the IRC's Security Officer advised that a revised distribution strategy be put in place. The revised strategy to address security concerns includes: mobilizing the community committees to participate in the food distributions; decongesting the distribution sites; avoiding open spaces for the distribution; identifying each individual before allowing entry into distribution sites; scheduling distributions in small groups; and checking the distribution site for any suspicious items prior to distributions.

Month	Beneficiary HH with single voucher	Beneficiary HH with Double Voucher	Total HH with Voucher Distributed	Total Voucher Distributed
July	1,956	244	1956	2,200
August	2,862	787	2862	3,649
September	2,767	533	3300	3,300
Total Voucher Distributed				9,149

g. Nutrition Education

During beneficiary verification in four communities (Gurin, Maraba Chigarin, Sangere and Agwan Abuja), the IRC team recorded cases of child malnutrition; in total 29 cases were documented for referral, triggering nutrition education outreach for 30 members of Jambutu community, including pregnant/lactating mothers, elderly women, girls and men in the community. In September, the IRC trained 400 members of Gurin, Sabon Gari, Mararaban Chigari communities in Fufore LGA and Sangere Futi and Angwan Abuja communities in Girei LGA on:

- Significance of breastfeeding for infants 0-6 months
- Appropriate complementary feeding
- Importance of food for good health
- Primary prevention of diet-related diseases
- Maintenance of wellness in the whole population.
- Hygiene promotion

h. Protection

The IRC's food voucher distribution was designed in such a manner so as to take into consideration the special needs of certain demographics. For example, the IRC gives priority to pregnant/lactating women, elderly and disabled beneficiaries at the distribution sites. The IRC also prioritized children and gender needs. The distribution team was split in two to ensure better outreach. All distributions were carried out with the support of IRC Protection staff to minimize protection issues.

i. Coordination

The IRC FSL joined the Adamawa Food Security Cluster/Co Lead of Partners. The IRC participated in the training on the "Cadre Harmonise" (CH) and was included as a member of the new CH Analysis team for Adamawa state. The committee is tasked with harmonizing the tools used for food security analysis to easily combine all assessments conducted in the sector.

Two IRC staff participated in the food security and livelihoods assessment that was organized by the Food Security Technical Working Group in Adamawa state. The IRC also facilitated an assessment and produced a report on the flood situation in Adamawa, highlighting the number of people affected by flood and households facing food insecurity.

The IRC's FSL team coordinated a one day CMAM Workshop, facilitated by the IRC Health and Nutrition Coordinator for the Adamawa State Food Security Working Group. Participants at the training included, the Ministry of Agriculture, the IRC and partners, GZDI and CCEPI staff, FAO,

Oxfam, CESCOPE and CRUDAN; 16 persons participated in total (four females and 12 males). The IRC subsequently drafted a nutrition education lesson based on the CMAM training, which will be used for the sensitization of beneficiaries during voucher distributions.

j. NFIs

Following the bid analysis and signing of the contract with 3 suppliers in September 2015, IRC's Supply Chain unit has issued a Payment Order (PO) for the supply of non-food items (NFI). The IRC FSL unit has made arrangements to distribute the NFIs (kitchen utensils) to 2,200 households in two batches in Yola and Mubi, using vulnerability criteria, focusing on female-headed households.

k. Staffing

During the period under review, the IRC Emergency External Roster Distribution Coordinator supported the operational aspect of the project. The Food Security Program Manager's contract was terminated due to poor performance and the IRC identified a replacement who will begin on October 5th, 2015. An M&E Officer was also recruited and will begin on October 2nd, 2015. The M&E Assistant has been transferred to the distribution team, since voucher handling during the distribution has experienced some challenges with time and security concerns. The Technical Adviser (TA) for ICT in Livelihoods is scheduled to visit Nigeria in October to train FSL staff on the e-vouchers and electronic monitoring. Similarly, the Technical Adviser for Nutrition and Livelihood will visit in October to strengthen the sectors' activities and address any programmatic challenges. The Nutrition Officer Position is expected to be filled in October.

l. Monitoring

The IRC finalized Standard Operation Procedure (SOPs) for data handling and IRC project staff were trained on beneficiary data management. The IRC team is working with IRC's Regional Measurement Advisor to finalize the master beneficiary database, followed by training for M&E Officer and Data Entry Assistant. To enhance PDM, the IRC purchased smart phones, and the ICT for Livelihoods Technical Advisor will train the IRC FSL team on electronic PDM in October.

- ***Post Distribution Monitoring***

The IRC conducted a PDM from July 27th – 31st, and again on August 28th. After receiving training, data collectors administered questionnaires and collected responses from a total of 198 beneficiaries in seven LGAs, 21 wards and over 30 communities. The PDM included questions about program performance, beneficiary understanding of targeting strategies, security, and beneficiary satisfaction, as well as measures of income preservation and protection. The survey also included questions related to interactions with vendors, including access, availability and variety of food commodities at market stalls, and perceptions around safety and security. The IRC monitored the food security indicators in August, and the PDM for September's distribution will begin in October.

- ***Price Monitoring***

In quarter 2, the IRC conducted 3 monthly price monitoring surveys in Mubi, Hong and Yola markets. The food vendors also affirmed that the price of the food items in the food basket had increased. Due to the price increase observed, the IRC decided to increase the

cost of the food basket for the last two rounds of commodity voucher distribution in August.

- ***Vendor Monitoring***

The Quality Control Officer reported one vendor that violated the voucher process in the first and second round of food voucher distributions. In the July distribution, the vendor collected vouchers at mobile shop before supplying the items, even though the vendor was out of stock at the shop, IRC identified the beneficiaries and followed up with vendors to ensure they were allocated accurate quantities. The IRC project team notified the vendors of these issues and warned that such acts would not be acceptable in the August distribution. However, during August monitoring, it was reported that one supplier continued this practice. Thus, despite his submission of interest to be part of the long term contact with food vouchers, the IRC did not approve his application.

- ***Hotline***

During this reporting period, the IRC project team worked to finalize the toll-free hotline feedback mechanism for beneficiaries and vendors. These toll-free hotlines are expected to be available for 60-75% of beneficiaries, and will undergo a trial run starting in November, 2015. The hotline will be available to provide beneficiary feedback services for 8 -9 hours a day, five days a week during the trial period. The operators of the hotline will provide translation into Hausa and Fulfulde. UNOCHA supported the IRC in development of the Hotline protocol and trained the IRC FSL Coordinator on August 27th, 2015. The training included session on the Terms of Reference for the Hotline operators, Code of Confidentiality, protocols, referral pathways, challenges and possible scenarios. The IRC FSL Coordinator will roll out the training to the hotline operators once they have been recruited. Once the toll-free hotline service and suggestion boxes are fully functional, the IRC will use it to conduct a PDM every two months.

- ***Suggestion Box***

In other areas where the hotline may not be feasible, the IRC is developing a design for suggestion boxes that will be placed near vendors' locations to collect beneficiary feedback in those areas.

- ***Mystery Shopping***

Mystery shoppers informed IRC of the challenges facing the rights of the beneficiaries in the value food voucher system. The mystery shoppers (are beneficiaries with tokens and food voucher) selected from among the beneficiaries to report on the treatment at the vendors shop and their feedback is immediately acted upon.

n. Market

The disproportionality of the markets in Yola and Mubi towns necessitated the vouchers to be commodity-based for the first months, as these vouchers ensure that the vendors are able to provide the required supplies in a timely manner. The food needs assessment conducted informed the food items specified on the vouchers, which include: maize 25kg, rice 25kg, beans 5 mudus (Local measure weighing 2.5kg), vegetable oil 4 litres, salt 100g and semovita 2kg per voucher. Each

food item has a pre-determined food quantity with dietary diversity in carbohydrate, protein and vitamins A, B, C and D. The beneficiary rights and food items were translated to the most understood language (Hausa) using pictorial images printed and shared with the beneficiaries.

The initial stage of the food assistance strategy was to provide food vouchers for the first round of distributions, which started the first week of July, targeting 2,200 households.

In response to the influx of displaced persons in Adamawa in August, the IRC increased beneficiary numbers in locations identified as high need by the IRC protection unit. In September, the IRC dropped Yolde Pate and Jambutu in Agwan Sanda, due to results from the second PDM report, which clearly showed a high food coping strategy for IDPs in urban settlement, better security and improved income.

The rationale behind utilizing paper vouchers concerns supply and security challenges experienced in the various target locations. The IRC team designed a voucher sample that includes security features to avoid any duplication or reprinting. To further secure the vouchers, the IRC staff printed the vouchers in Abuja and ensured transparent and secure voucher handling in their delivery to Yola.

Indicator	Disaggregates	Comment
Total number of project participants targeted	Male	16,725 (Total Male and Female individuals in HH reached)
	Female	17,427
Total number of project participants reached	Male	12,505
	Female	13,193
Actual average cost per project participant	Cash	\$120
	Voucher	3
	LRP	
	Title II	
Average cost per project participant per month	Cash	\$55
	Voucher	\$3,050
	LRP	
	Title II	

Food Prices:

		Rice (imported) - Mudu (1.7 kg)	Rice (local) - Mudu (1.6 kg)	Maize - Mudu (1.7 kg)	Sorghum - Mudu (2.2 kg)	Millet - Mudu (1.5 kg)	Groundnut - Mudu (1.1 kg)	Cowpeas - Mudu (1.7 kg)	Vegetable oil - 1 Lt	Iodized salt - 1/4 Mudu (0.7 kg)	Tomatoes - Mudu (4 kg)	Onions - Mudu (5.5 kg)	Eggs - Dozen (1/2 crate)	Dried Fish - Mudu (1 kg)	Beef - 1 kg	Firewood - 1 small wrap	Public transport Yola-Mubi
2015	January																
	February	350.00						230.00									
	March																
	April																
	May	350.00						230.00									
	June																
	July	291.67	353.33	100.00	100.00	116.67	340.00	246.67	400.00	103.33	1766.67	766.67	375.00	508.33	979.33	15.00	1200.00
	August	329.17	264.83	90.00	94.33	94.00	267.42	231.92	393.33	67.50	838.25	486.67	397.92	287.50	991.67	16.25	1200.00
	September	303.33	222.17	98.42	97.67	105.08	257.50	226.83	397.50	51.67	929.83	697.50	392.50	362.50	1000.00	15.42	1200.00
	October	316.33	206.50	95.25	95.83	106.33	244.75	221.92	397.50	51.67	754.08	748.00	391.67	400.00	950.00	19.17	1133.33
	November																

Analysis:

There was a slight upward trend in prices for food commodities in the markets. This trend might be the result of: border closures and decreased importation of rice; narrowing market supply (typical seasonal trend, flooding plus disruptions due to insecurity, particularly for Mubi); increased transportation costs due to destruction and inaccessibility of roads during the rainy season; and finally, the influx of IDPs to Mubi created higher demand, thus driving prices upward.

The price of yellow maize, at 5,900 Naira, is the highest in the region at Mubi market, except for Maiduguri (at 6,100 Naira). White maize is, however, more stable and drastically lower in price at 4,000 Naira – beneficiaries purchased more white maize than yellow. The cost of imported rice actually fell in August to 8,000 Naira, from 8,500 Naira in June. Local rice, however, is much higher across the region at 17,100 Naira in Maiduguri, 14,000 Naira in Biu, and 12,000 Naira in Potiskum. Local rice is not easily available at Mubi's market though.

ii. Challenges, Success, and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Onboarding of the full project team took six weeks and inadvertently caused a slower start of the project. However, to regain momentum, the IRC fast-tracked key milestones, such as, project launch, partner engagement, vendor identification and orientation, beneficiary registration, baseline assessment, market assessment and HDDS.

With 61% of the registered beneficiaries in Mubi North, Mubi South and Hong, the IRC learned that existing market structures in that area would not be able to meet the demand of the food requirements for this food distribution exercise, and the identified vendors will be required to transport food supplies to areas up north. As a result vendors have been quoting relatively high prices. The supply chain team was able to hold successful negotiations with vendors to lower their prices to fit within the value unit of \$55 dollars per voucher, so that targeted beneficiaries are able to receive substantive quantities.

The project faced some key challenges during the reporting period. The IRC Food Security Manager's contract had to be terminated due to performance concerns, though the IRC was able to quickly identify a replacement.

During Q2, the security situation remained in flux, and even worsened with increased number of bomb blasts in the project area. This led to loss of distribution time and necessitated the development of a new strategy to ensure the safety of IRC staff and beneficiaries. Following the bomb blast in Malkhoi camp, the IRC had to suspend all activities in the formal camps in Yola for two weeks, delaying some activities.

Road conditions to project locations deteriorated during the last few weeks of the reporting period due to heavy rain. In some of the locations such as Gaya and Garaha, accessibility has been a serious challenge. The IRC's FSL team has been working closely with partners and community committees to arrange mechanisms such as, meeting at locations the vehicle could not go beyond.

The IRC, in an effort to improve and strengthen the security of food voucher printing, has engaged an out-of-country printer through the IRC's supply chain. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the initial delivery of the vouchers were sent to the wrong address from the printers in New York, and then Nigeria Customs caused further delay in providing information on the customs duty. These delays have impacted the October distribution. The IRC has planned to roll over the numbers of the vouchers not distributed in October to the monthly distributions in 2016.